(c) whether the mode of promotion of JEs to TEs Group B has been changed from selection method to seniority-cum-suitability basis; if so, the date of effect of the same and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; Candidates approved for promotion to TEs Group 'B' during 1977 were 898 JEs.

(c) Yes, Sir; by amendment of Recruitment Rules in February, 1987 the method of promotion by way of Seniority-cum-fitness was introduced for promotion of JEs to TEs Group 'B' against 66-2/3 per cent quota. This has been done to enable senior JEs to get promotion easily.

Employees of IDPL and HAL working in the Ministry

2946. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3401 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of employees of IDPL and HAL are working in the Ministry and at the residence of certain bureaucrats of his Ministry,

(b) if so, what are the names of such employees, their designation and since when each one of them is working at these places;

(c) whether it is a fact that these employees do not attend any of the IDPL Offices and are not doing any work of IDPL;

(d) if so, what is the justification in making payment of emoluments to them; and

(e) what are the details of salaries and allowances paid to each of these employees during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The services of employees of IDPL and HAL are utilised occassionally for office work in the Ministry only as and when considered essential.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tapping the private conversation of Parliamentarians

2947. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private conversation between Parliamentarians was tapped in Chandigarh as reported in the Sunday Observer of 23rd October, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Department of Telecommunications has neither taped nor has received any request from State Government/Central Government for extending technical facilities for interception of telephone calls in Chandigarh, between Parliamentarians.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New telephone connections

2948. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to provide new telephone connections in the country during August, September, and October last, if so, what was the number of new telephone connections provided during this period State-wise; and

(b) what was the number of electronic exchange lines commissioned during the above period and the number of proposed new connections during the current financial Year?